

VENEZUELAN WAR.

Government Prepares to Repel Dutch Invasion.

FORTS AND WARSHIPS MANNED

Acting President Gomez Hampered by Discontent Among Troops and Threatened Revolution. Rioting at Caracas.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 15.—A decree issued by Acting President Gomez recognizes a state of war existing between Holland and Venezuela. The government is making desperate efforts to strengthen the fortifications, man the warships and lay mines in the harbors, but Gomez is hampered by discontent among the troops and by mutterings of revolution.

The capture of the guardship Alix and the presence of the Dutch battleship and cruisers has stirred up mutterings against the Castro administration, and rioting has occurred in various sections of Caracas.

The feelings of this crowd were plainly hostile to Castro and to the steps taken by Gomez. A pitched battle ensued between the partisans of the government and the opposition.

Many shots were exchanged, and the fighting lasted for five minutes. Several men were wounded, and one has since died. The police with rifles dispersed the crowd.

In his decree Acting President Gomez told of the capture of the guardship and said:

I consider these acts a true invasion of Venezuelan territory and an aggression against the Venezuelan government. They constitute a grave offense. The national sovereignty is threatened, and the territorial integrity, honor and dignity of the fatherland is in danger.

I decree the nation in a state of defense, and consequently the executive assumes and will exercise the extraordinary faculties conferred upon him by section 8 of article 50 of the Venezuelan constitution.

The Yellow House, the executive mansion, was crowded today with citizens. Speeches were made denouncing that political prisoners be set at liberty and that government monopolies be abolished.

The threatened danger from without had a double effect on the people. They demanded measures of protection, but insisted upon the termination of one of the most unpopular courses of the Castro administration, the maintenance of government monopolies.

The captain of the Alix, who came ashore at Puerto Cabello, has sent up to Caracas the communication handed him by the Dutch officer who came on board from the Gelderland. This note is as follows:

On Board the Cruiser Gelderland, Dec. 12.—Her majesty the queen of Holland has given orders for her warships temporarily to sequester and embargo all Venezuelan government vessels.

This is a retaliatory measure. We demand that you lower your flag and surrender your ship and your persons to the commander of the Gelderland. All resistance will be useless.

If you resist the result will be the loss of your vessel and death to many of you.

The Dutch warships cruised today between La Guayra and Puerto Cabello looking for Venezuelan vessels.

CASTRO WRITES TO KAISER.

Expresses His Profound Homage to the German Emperor.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—President Castro has sent a message to Emperor William stating that he has come to Germany for medical treatment and expressing profound homage to his majesty.

When he learned the news of the capture of a Venezuelan vessel by the Dutch cruiser Gelderland he was not greatly affected, merely remarking that there was no such vessel as the Alix in the Venezuelan service.

Castro, although having the appearance of a sick man, was full of energy today. He was in capital spirits and chatted gayly with his suit, repeatedly declaring that he was exceedingly well impressed with Germany. Later he chatted with the charge d'affaires and the Venezuelan consul.

A photographer who came to take a flashlight picture attempted to interview the Venezuelan president, but Castro had very little to say beyond, "I am greatly pleased to be in Germany."

He visited Dr. Israel this afternoon, when the question of an operation was discussed.

OIL CASE RESUMED TODAY.

Prosecutor Kellogg Had Hearing Adjourned to See Taft.

New York, Dec. 15.—The Standard Oil hearing, which was adjourned yesterday, was resumed today.

The engagement of Prosecutor Frank B. Kellogg with President Elect Taft caused the stay in the case.

COMMISSION NOT DISMAYED.

Harriman Decision No Surprise, Says Chairman Knapp.

Washington, Dec. 15.—No surprise was expressed today by the interstate commerce commission at the decision of the United States supreme court in the case of E. H. Harriman and Otto Kahn.

It is not felt by the commission that the decision will affect seriously its powers of railroad regulation, inasmuch as the questions propounded to Mr. Harriman and to Mr. Kahn did not affect materially the determination of the so called "Harriman cases."

Chairman Knapp of the commission said that the decision could not detract in any material way from the powers of the commission in the making of future investigations regarding railway transactions. This opinion was concurred in by other members of the commission.

The opinion justified the refusal of Messrs. Harriman and Kahn to make reply to questions put by the commission in the course of an inquiry concerning the dealings of Mr. Harriman as president of the Union Pacific in the stocks of other railroad companies, many of which are competing lines.

In a dissenting opinion, concurred in by Justices Harlan and McKenna, Justice Day declared that the effect of the opinion of the majority of the court would be to materially narrow the scope of the interstate commerce law.

These three justices took the position that the questions of the commission were entirely proper and should have been answered by Harriman and Kahn.

MURPHY FOR THE CABINET.

Former Governor of New Jersey Offered Place by Judge Taft.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 15.—Former Governor Franklin Murphy of New Jersey is to have a place in President Taft's cabinet, but he will not say what position has been offered him.

To the question "Which particular cabinet position have you accepted?"

Mr. Murphy replied, "I have nothing to say."

The former governor has occupied a prominent position in Republican politics in New Jersey for nearly twenty years. He became chairman of the Republican state committee in 1892 and this office he has retained.

In 1902 he was elected governor of New Jersey, serving in that capacity until 1905. He is a member of the executive committee of the Republican national committee.

Boston Wet or Dry? City Votes Today on Question of Abolishing Saloons.

Boston, Dec. 15.—The principal question in the municipal election, which is being held here today, is the following: "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this city?" A few days ago the principal cities of Massachusetts outside of Boston voted on this question, the results being about evenly divided, and the entire state and prohibitionists throughout the country are eagerly awaiting the returns of today's election.

In addition to the important license question, Boston is also voting for members of the board of aldermen, members of the common council, members of the school committee and a street commissioner.

BURNS UP \$1,100,000.

Dying Russian Millionaire Cheats His Relatives of Fortune.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 15.—Alexis Petroff, a dying Moscow millionaire, had his whole fortune, amounting to \$1,100,000, withdrawn from the banks and the bank notes brought to his sickroom.

The bank notes were then piled before him and set on fire.

Petroff summoned his relatives and showed them the ashes, congratulating them on having escaped from the clutches of death.

In order to remove cruel war from his native shores Castro carried Venezuela's navy to Europe in his money chests.

It is believed that in his stead General Wright, secretary of war, will go.

Back country farmers will be glad to have the uplift commission make dates this winter providing the advance agent brings along a steam snowplow as pilot for the steam roller.

Calling that egg corner a shell game may be a poor pun, but the last laugh will be the punster's when the egg trust lawyer tries to make a jail offense out of it for libel.

JUSTICE TO NEGRO

Congress to Pass Law on Troops' Reinstatement.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LIKED.

Tardy Compensation For Colored Soldiers Who Were Innocent of Participation in the Brownsville Riot.

Washington, Dec. 15.—A canvass of representatives and senators show that congress is likely to pass the bill recommended by President Roosevelt to permit of the reinstatement of such colored soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry who were innocent of participation in the Brownsville riot of Aug. 14, 1906.

The president's message on the subject is generally approved by members of congress, and the feeling is that it is no more than right at this late day to do justice to those colored soldiers "who will truthfully tell what happened and help to fix the responsibility upon those who were really guilty."

With his message the president sent a report from Herbert J. Browne and Captain W. G. Baldwin, who investigated the riot. He says:

This report enables us to fix with tolerable definiteness at least some of the criminals who took the lead in the murderous shooting of private citizens at Brownsville. It establishes clearly the fact that the colored soldiers did the shooting.

It appears that almost all the members of Company B must have been actively concerned in the shooting, either to the extent of being participants or to the extent of virtually encouraging those who were participants. As to Companies C and D, there can be no question that practically every man in them must have had knowledge that the shooting was done by some of the soldiers of B troop and possibly by one or two others in one of the other troops.

This conclusion was itself a grave offense, which was greatly aggravated by their testifying before the senate committee that they were ignorant of what they must have known. Nevertheless it is to be said in partial extenuation that they were probably cowed by threats made by the more desperate of the men who had actually been engaged in the shooting as to what would happen to any man who failed to protect the wrongdoers.

I believe we can afford to reinstate any of these men who now truthfully tell what has happened, give all the aid they can to fix the responsibility upon those who are really guilty and show that they themselves had no guilty knowledge beforehand and were in no way implicated in the affair save by having knowledge of it afterward and failing and refusing to divulge it.

I recommend that a law be passed allowing the secret army of war within a fixed period of time—say a year—to reinstate any of these soldiers whom he after careful examination finds to have been innocent and whom he finds to have done all in his power to help bring to justice the guilty.

Meanwhile the investigation will be continued. The results have made it obvious that only by carrying on the investigation as the war department has actually carried it on is there the slightest chance of bringing the offenders to justice or of separating not the innocent—but the less guilty—from those whose guilt was heinous.

Senator Foraker, who has constituted himself a champion of the colored troops, regards the message as a tardy and partial act of justice.

Herbert J. Browne's report reveals the fact that Boyd Conyers, a former member of Company B, confessed to a detective that he and three or four others led the raid.

The reasons Conyers gave for the murderous outbreak was the reported threats of the Brownsville "crackers" against the negro troops.

Mr. Browne says he has every reason to believe the confession genuine and that it gives for the first time the true secret history of the Brownsville raid.

TAFT NOT TO GO TO PANAMA.

Belief That Secretary of War Wright Will Go Instead.

New York, Dec. 15.—The plan of President Elect William H. Taft for a personal inspection of the Panama canal in January has been changed suddenly.

A man who enjoys the confidence of Mr. Taft stated that despite reports to the contrary Mr. Taft had declared that his decision to visit Panama was only tentative and that circumstances had developed which had practically determined him to abandon the tour.

It was explained that Mr. Taft's time would be so occupied with affairs of importance preliminary to his taking the presidential chair that it was not expedient for him to make the trip.

It is believed that in his stead General Wright, secretary of war, will go.

In order to remove cruel war from his native shores Castro carried Venezuela's navy to Europe in his money chests.

SEMICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

A Gala Night for Peter Williamson Lodge, F. and A. M. of Scranton.

The fiftieth anniversary of Peter Williamson lodge, No. 323 of Free and Accepted Masons, was celebrated in Scranton on Thursday night last with the installation of the new officers, followed by a banquet and speech making. Three hundred members of the organization were present. In 1853 the lodge was organized by the election of Dr. Nathaniel F. Marsh, for many years a resident here, as the first master. He was born in England and learned the business of a druggist in London. He came to this country and located at Honesdale, where he studied medicine and practiced for some time. In 1857, with Charles P. Matthews, he went to Scranton, and when Mr. Matthews started his drug store in the old Fuller building on Lackawanna avenue, Dr. Marsh opened an office in the same building. The last years of his life were spent in Port Jervis, where he died from a disease contracted in the war.

Another very interesting feature in connection with the banquet was the presentation to the lodge of a photograph of the lodge's first master, Dr. Marsh. The presentation speech was made by Thomas F. Wells and accepted on behalf of the lodge by William S. Diehl, a past master.

Peter Williamson, in whose honor the lodge was named, was in the early days of his life a drug merchant in Philadelphia, where he accumulated a large fortune. He became grand master of the grand lodge of the State, and later grand treasurer. He retired from active life and devoted most of his leisure time to the cause of Free Masonry. When fire on July 30, 1863, destroyed Masonic hall at the corner of Lackawanna and Wyoming avenues, Scranton, and wiped out most of the regalia, jewels, etc., Mr. Williamson went to the rescue by replacing much of the valuable property lost.

Former Judge E. N. Willard was the first member to join Peter Williamson lodge, and thrice served as worshipful master.

Among past and present officers and members of the lodge we notice the names of Kingsbury, Matthews, Henwood, Bushnell, Brandamore and others, strongly suggestive of Honesdale origin.

NEW THEATER BEGUN.

Cornerstone of Institution to Be Laid Today in New York.

New York, Dec. 15.—The cornerstone of the new theater, which will be, if the plans of its founders are realized, a home for the dramatic art of America, will be laid this afternoon in the presence of an assemblage of authors, dramatists, city officials and other distinguished persons.

The ceremony of laying the cornerstone will take place in the vestibule of the new building. In addition to an address by Mayor McClellan there will be speeches by Augustus Thomas, the playwright, and President John H. Finley of the City college. Richard Watson Gilder will read an ode composed for the occasion. Miss Geraldine Farrar will sing, and a dedicatory chorus by Percy MacKaye will be sung by a full chorus.

MORAN-NEIL SCRAP.

Little Fighters Meet in Ring in Boston Tonight.

Boston, Dec. 15.—Followers of the fighting game who assembled here today expect to see a fast bout when Owen Moran of England and Frankie Nell of California, featherweights, get together in the ring tonight at the Armory Athletic club. The boys are matched to box twelve rounds.

Moran claims the featherweight title of England, and Nell was formerly bantamweight champion of America. The two have met before, the honors going to Moran. The little Englishman also has the credit of having fought two draws with Abe Attell. The betting on tonight's fight favors Moran.

Haiti once belonged to France, but the natives revolted and slaughtered all the Frenchmen found on the island. Napoleon made believe to befriend the blacks, but the regime he instituted ended in tyranny. Yet in spite of the national hatred of the French flag the rulers of the little republic take cover under it to protect them from the fury of their own people.

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Calling that egg corner a shell game may be a poor pun, but the last laugh will be the punster's when the egg trust lawyer tries to make a jail offense out of it for libel.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Ex-Treasurer E. E. Fowler Perishes in a Fire—A Sad Dispensation.



E. E. FOWLER.

One of the steamers of Protection Engine Co. No. 3, was run out on Monday morning last at about a quarter past eleven o'clock in response to an alarm locating a fire in the Fowler barn in the rear of the family residence on North Main street. The building was a small one, and as there was no hay in the loft, and nothing of much value stored on the first floor, but little anxiety was manifested by the crowd which assembled as to the loss which might ensue.

Soon, however, it was rumored that Ex-County Treasurer Edward E. Fowler, might be in the burning building, and shortly afterward, when the boarding of the south side of the structure fell away, the on-lookers were horrified by the spectacle of a charred body lying face downward on the floor of the second story, the whitened skull with its sightless eyes, beyond which could be traced the outlines of a partially incinerated form, in full view.

The efforts of the firemen were then directed toward saving the body from complete destruction, and when the flames were sufficiently subdued, a humane onlooker succeeded in covering the ghastly remains with a sheet. Later they were removed to the yard adjoining, where they were viewed by Coroner Dr. H. B. Searles, who made a thorough but informal investigation, and pronouncing the death manifestly due to accidental suffocation, decided an inquest to be unnecessary.

This official pronouncement will be generally accepted as the true theory of the cause of Mr. Fowler's untimely death. As is natural in cases of this kind, there have been many stories circulated, with such basis of fact and surmise as would lead the average person to a conclusion differing from the decision of the Coroner. But a full knowledge of Mr. Fowler's movements on the fatal morning, fully justifies the belief that his death was purely accidental. From his home on North Main street he came down town, meeting Hon. E. B. Hardenbergh, A. A. Grambs and others on the way, and conversing with them in his usual pleasant manner. He stopped at a drug store, called on a professional Court st. friend, visited the county officers, dropped in at the Allen House, paid Heumann's a flying visit, and returned to his home about 11 o'clock, apparently in the best of spirits.

To Mr. Keen, employed in painting a building near his home he said that he was in first-class health, and generally "all right." Though usually companionable and sociable, sometimes to a fault, he had been a total abstainer for weeks, and careful inquiry fails to show that he had transgressed to the slightest extent on Monday.

About 11 o'clock a drayman in the employ of the Fowler Milling firm, took a load of coal to the home of W. A. Gaylord, father-in-law of E. E. Fowler's brother. He went to the little barn back of the Fowler homestead, for a schute. Edward was standing in the yard but did not accompany him to the barn. Before the coal was unloaded the alarm of fire was given, and, owing to its rapid progress, when the cartman, Mr. Keen and others tried to enter the barn through the half open door, they were driven back by the fierce flames which had already enveloped the loft, and were bursting from every crack and joint.

In this flood of fire Mr. Fowler perished. How it started and precisely how he became its victim must forever remain a mystery. In the very prime of life, thirty-seven years of age, and having just served his county as treasurer with a flawless record, it is to be presumed that the future held out to him many inducements for future effort. The very fact that he was a successful candidate for one of the most important offices in the gift of our people, at an almost unprecedentedly youthful age, affords convincing evidence of his popularity. Thus honored and thus kindly regarded by his fellow townsmen, his untimely death must be accepted as a peculiarly sad dispensation, and will be felt by many as a personal bereavement.

"KID REGAN."

Reported Capture of a Former Honesdale Boy Long Hunted as a Murderer.

The New York World of Saturday last contains an account of the capture in California of Peter, alias "Kid" Regan, son of Peter Regan, who several years ago carried on the shoe making and cobbling business on Main street, below Sixth, but later, with his family, went to New York city to live. The father himself was a peaceable, industrious and much respected man while living here, and, in fact, all of the family were well thought of with the exception of "Kid," who got into many boyish scrapes, some of them of a serious nature. The story of his alleged crime in New York, and his reported capture is thus told by The World:

After a search extending over three years, Peter Regan, alias "Kid" Regan, who is wanted for murdering Roy Joyce, during a gang fight in Tobey's cafe, at Broadway and Thirtieth street, in April, 1905, is believed to have been arrested at Los Angeles, California.

When it became known at Headquarters yesterday that Fourth Deputy Commissioner Woods, in charge of the Detective Bureau, had received information that "Kid" Regan was in custody, there was a great stir among the old timers, for a certain faction in the Police Department had done everything possible to block the efforts made to capture him.

The accused man is a brother of Lieut. Martin Regan. Soon after the murder of Joyce, the "system" became active, and for weeks Regan remained in the city, frequenting his old haunts and visiting his friends, while supposedly every bluecoat and plainclothes man on the force was trying night and day to capture him.

Regan had connections with the police which led to the inner circles of the "system," and he was kept posted on all that was going on. The little gang fighter, who had been a member of Paul Kelly's notorious band of thugs, was seen often on Broadway and the Bowery, but he was not arrested. Police Commissioner McAdoo had men assigned to hunt down the murderer, and they made false reports to him, it was said.

Among the men to fall under suspicion of having protected "Kid" Regan was Lieut. Frank Peabody, who is now out of the Police Department. Peabody has been a most persistent hunter for the fugitive murderer ever since his retirement.

"By capturing Regan I will vindicate myself and will find him if he is alive," said Peabody.

It was through information obtained by Peabody that the present suspect was captured in California, it is said. Last April Peabody thought he was on the trail of "Kid" Regan, and he caused the arrest in Port Jervis, N. Y., of a man he believed to be the murderer. This suspect turned out to be Thomas Regan, a brother of the missing gang fighter.

Thomas Regan told the authorities at Police Headquarters that while working on a railroad he met his brother near Pocatello, Idaho. One night Thomas Regan said, his brother fell between two freight cars and was ground to death. He was buried in the Potter's Field, at Pocatello, his brother said.

This story was gladly accepted by certain persons at Police Headquarters, and the search for "Kid" Regan was practically abandoned. Peabody refused to believe the story was true and renewed his efforts to find the fugitive on the theory that Regan might become bolder in view of the report that he was dead.

The information from Los Angeles regarding the arrest of the man believed to be Regan is meagre. Deputy Police Commissioner Woods said he was not prepared to tell how the capture had been made.

"We are pretty sure we have the right man, but until I am positive I do not care to say more about the case than that a man answering the description of "Kid" Regan, and who we have other reasons for believing to be the fugitive murderer, is under arrest somewhere in the West," he said. "Whether we will send some one to identify the man, or whether he can be identified by those who have him in custody, I do not know. If the suspect is identified we will have him extradited and brought here to stand trial."

A Coroner's jury has held Regan responsible for the murder of Roy Joyce, which was the outcome of one of the most sensational gang fights ever known in the Tenderloin. Regan and several members of the Paul Kelly gang were sitting in the rathskellar of Tobey's cafe when a woman who was with Regan, left him to go to a table where another man was sitting. A fight followed and Joyce attempted to interfere. Regan had no grudge against Joyce, but he stabbed him to death. Three other men were seriously wounded.

Death of Joseph A. Dear.

Joseph A. Dear, publisher of the Jersey City Evening Journal, died at his home in that city on Thursday, Dec. 10th, 1908, of a complication of diseases, aged 68 years. He was born in England, and did newspaper work there before coming to this country in 1864 and connecting himself with New York city journals. In 1867 he settled in Jersey City and soon won a position among the leading citizens in his new field of labor. He is survived by a widow, one daughter, Mrs. Howard T. Garney, wife of the president and general manager of the Honesdale National Elevator and Machine Works, and four sons, one of whom, Joseph A. Dear, Jr., is the managing editor of the Evening Journal. Mr. Dear was a stockholder in the Honesdale Elevator Works.